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Sen. Russell Richard
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More Eyes Added To CIA Watchdogs

Senator Richard Russell has had some second thoughts and a resultant change of heart. This is apparent in his recent invitation to the three members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, invited to participate in the closed hearings involving the Central Intelligence Agency.

Last year Russell said "no" to Senator William Fulbright's request that his committee (Foreign Relations) be given official representation on the CIA watchdog committee. The Senate sided with Russell who, as he put it, wanted no "muscling in."

Fulbright argued that the CIA is so mixed up in foreign affairs that the Senate Foreign Relations group as well as the Armed Services and Appropriations committees should have a right to question the agency about its operations.

Now, at long last, that point of view is prevailing and for good reason, for CIA certainly IS mixed up in foreign policy. The group of senators primarily concerned with foreign policy deserve a close look-in on the agency's intents and actions. That privilege has been granted, and everybody should be happy that the gap has been closed.

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